

### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) ~~Apparatus for displaying to a user a web portal for a web application, said web portal displaying a plurality of associated portlets, sharing information with each other, accessible by said user; the~~ An apparatus comprising:
  - a portal server for operating a web portal to provide access to ~~said a~~ web application;
  - a portlet application for operating on said portal server, for managing a collection of associated portlets;
  - said portlet application ~~including~~ comprising:
    - means to initiate portlets on requests of a user to access said web application;
    - means to manage a portlet application session object for said portlets; ~~and, and~~
    - a portlet application session object data store controlled by said portlet application session object for saving parameters from user requests for associating said portlets with said portlet application session object.
2. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 1 including claim 1, wherein said portlet application further comprises~~ a portlet application communication client in said portlet application for communicating between said portlet application session object and said web application to convey user requests received from said associated portlets to said web application.
3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said portlet application ~~assigns~~ is further configured to assign a common key to each portlet associated with ~~a said~~ portlet application session object.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 1 including claim 1~~, further comprising a user session information table ~~adapted~~ configured to connect to multiple web applications with said portlet application session object.

5-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) An article comprising:  
a computer readable signal bearing storage medium; and  
computer program code means recorded on said computer readable signal bearing storage medium adapted to implement the apparatus of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5, 8 to 17~~.

19. (new) An apparatus for use with multiple associated portlets in a web portal, the apparatus comprising:  
means for managing said multiple associated portlets;  
a portlet application data store; and  
means for granting read/write access to said portlet application data store by said multiple associated portlets to enable said multiple associated portlets to exchange data among each other.

20. (new) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for managing said multiple associated portlets comprises a portlet application.

21. (new) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising means for managing a portlet application session object, wherein the portlet application session object is configured to manage the portlet application data store.

22. (new) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for granting read/write access to the portlet application data store comprises the portlet application session object.

23. (new) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the apparatus comprises a portlet server capable of operating on a portal server for hosting the multiple associated portlets in the web portal accessible to a user.

24. (new) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising means for creating the portlet application session object for the user.
25. (new) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:  
means for creating and managing a key for the user for the portlet application session object; and  
means for granting the key to each associated portlet for controlling access to the portlet application session object.
26. (new) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the apparatus comprises a portlet application capable of operating on a portal server for hosting the multiple associated portlets in a web portal accessible by the user.
27. (new) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein one portlet application is assigned to each user, and one key is assigned respectively for each user to respective portlet application session objects for each portlet application.
28. (new) An apparatus for displaying to a user a web portal for a web application, the apparatus comprising:  
a portal server for operating the web portal to provide access to the web application by the user;  
a portlet application, for managing a collection of associated portlets, for operating on the portal server;  
a portlet application session object for the user for the associated portlets;  
a portlet application session object data store controlled by the portlet application session object; and  
a portlet application communication client linked to the portlet application session object data store for communicating between the associated portlets and the web application to convey user requests received from the associated portlets to the web application, wherein the portlet application communication client comprises:

a request buffer for storing requests from the associated portlets to enable the portlet application communication client to generate requests relative to the web application.

29. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein portlet application communication client is further configured to generate the requests synchronized to the web application, to send information including the requests over a network to the web application, and to receive information including responses to the requests from the web application.

30. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein portlet application communication client is further configured to generate the requests serialized to the web application, to send information including the requests over a network to the web application, and to receive information including responses to the requests from the web application.

31. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein portlet application communication client is further configured to generate the requests serialized to the web application, to send information including the requests over a network to the web application server, and to receive information including responses to the requests from the web application server.

32. (new) An article comprising:  
a computer readable signal bearing storage medium; and  
computer program code means recorded on said computer readable signal bearing storage medium adapted to implement the apparatus of claim 19.

33. (new) An article comprising:  
a computer readable signal bearing storage medium; and  
computer program code means recorded on said computer readable signal bearing storage medium adapted to implement the apparatus of claim 28.